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HAVANA DEFECTOR KNOWS ARMS DATA

Spaniards Fill In Background on High Economic Official Cuba Tried to Get Back

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MADRID, Dec. 16 — The Cuban defector who was the subject of a foiled kidnapping attempt last week had inside knowledge about Cuban arms sales and purchases and about overseas military ventures in such countries as Angola, according to Spanish officials and to Cuban exiles here.

Four embassy employees tried to kidnap the defector, Manuel Antonio Sánchez Pérez, in Madrid last Friday, but they were foiled when bystanders intervened. Mr. Sánchez, a former economic official in the Cuban Government, is being kept in a safe house.

The sources said that he held the rank of a deputy minister as a member of the State Planning Board. He was also said to have worked for a key agency known as the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, which oversees purchase of supplies abroad. A few years ago, he was identified in the West as the chief of the agency's World Planning Directorate.

The Spanish sources said that Mr. Sánchez had been associated with the planning board, which oversees the economy, for nearly 15 years. The position made him a man of confidence inside the Government, they said.

Asylum Was Asked on Nov. 18

Officials declined to disclose the location of the safe house. They said Mr. Sánchez first applied for asylum on Nov. 18 in Zaragoza during a stopover en route to Eastern Europe on a purchasing trip. Some sources said he had applied for political asylum in the United States. The United States Embassy declined comment.

Nearly 70,000 Cubans have used Spain as a route to the United States since 1961, though most first moved to Spain with Cuban Government permission, according to refugee agencies. An air force officer active in Africa defected to the United States here earlier this year and another Government economist defected three years ago.

Mr. Sánchez' decision to defect may be related to a recent upheaval inside the Cuban Government, the sources said. Fidel Castro switched planning ministers two months ago. It was publicly unclear, however, where Mr. Sánchez stood in the in-fighting.

In the kidnapping attempt Friday, four Cuban Embassy employees seized the defector as he emerged from a bank here. Though two of the four had pistols out, a building guard intervened and asked for their identification as passers-by gathered around the car into which a screaming Mr. Sánchez had been pushed.

Getaway Car Was Blocked

The guard said in an interview over the weekend that a Cuban passport belonging to one of the assailants fell on the ground. The passers-by, along with two taxis, blocked the car from pulling away from the curb.

The Madrid daily ABC reported today that Spanish security agents who had been following Mr. Sánchez were also part of the group.

"What got me," said the guard, "was seeing this man, corpulent and bleeding from the mouth, crying with anguish when he saw me, as if he knew that I was his only salvation."

The incident has soured Cuban-Spanish relations. Spain has expelled the four embassy employees. Cuba said Saturday that Spain was protecting an "ordinary thief" who had gone to the bank to withdraw \$500,000 in Cuban Government money. Spain said the Cuban version was false and contained "intolerable judgments on the behavior of the Spanish people."

Prime Minister Felipe González canceled a trip to Cuba last summer because, he said, of a political crisis in Spain. Mr. Castro angered Spaniards with a speech soon afterward, bring up long-past colonial atrocities.